

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9993

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CH, UR
SUBJ: SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. ON DECEMBER 15 THE CZECH MISSION IN GENEVA HELD A SMALL RECEPTION FOR A FEW DEPARTING CZECH OFFICIALS WHO DEAL PRIMARILY WITH ECE MATTERS; THE CHINESE CHARGE, YI SU-CHIH, AND HIS FRENCH LANGQAGE INTERPRETER, CHANG CHIH-KAI, ATTENDED. AT THE RECEPTION, A CZECH DIPLOMAT, A HUNGARIAN DIPLOMAT, AND THE RESIDENT CHINA SCHOLAR AT THE SOVIET MISSION ALL SEPARATELY TOLD A U.S. MISSION OFFICER THAT HE SHOULD NOTE THE PRESENCE OF THE CHINESE OFFICIALS; THE HUNGARIAN EVEN TOLD THE MISSION OFFICER TO ALERT HIS AMBASSADOR TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE CHINESE. THE MISSION OFFICER OBSERVED THAT THE CHINESE CHARGE WAS NOT ONLY PRESENT, BUT WAS IN FACT MAKING A POINT OF BEING OVERTLY FRIENDLY, NOT ONLY WITH THE EASTERN EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES, BUT WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING THE RESIDENT SOVIET "CHINA WATCHER." THE MISSION OFFICER, WHO IS WELL KNOWN TO THE CHINESE CHARGE, ENGAGED THE CHARGE IN A
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SHORT CONVERSATION. THE CHARGE WAS NOTICEABLY COOLER TOWARDS THE MISSION OFFICER THAN HE WAS TO THE COMMUNISTS IN ATTENDANCE. THIS IS A MARKED CHANGE FROM THE MANNER IN WHICH THE CHINESE HERE USUALLY DEAL WITH US AND THE SOVIETS AT THESE TYPES OF FUNCTIONS.
THE SOVIET CHINA WATCHER APPROACHED THE MISSION OFFICER LATER

IN THE EVENING TO REMIND HIM THAT HE SHOULD EXPECT TO SEE FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS ARE CHANGING RAPIDLY. HE REFERRED THE OFFICER TO A RECENT NOVOSTI NEWS RELEASE IN THE U.S. ON SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS, WHICH IS NOT AVAILABLE IN GENEVA.

2. THREE OTHER U.S. MISSION OFFICERS WHO ATTENDED THIS RECEPTION ALSO RECALL SOME COMMENTS MADE TO THEM ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE CHINESE.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE MANNER IN WHICH THE SOVIETS AND CHINESE DEAL WITH ONE ANOTHER IN GENEVA IS NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENTATIVE, OUR CONCLUSION IS THAT THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE TRYING TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT RELATIONS WITH THE PRC ARE IMPROVING, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE IN THE FUTURE.CATTO

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